

REMARKS

Claim 16 stands objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form. In response, Applicants amended claim 16 to recite “wherein the texture comprises stripes of fine scratches, and a cross angle is defined between intersecting ones of the stripes of fine scratches”. For this reason, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Hammond (U.S. Patent No. 4,347,689), in view of Moldovan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,566,224). In response, Applicants amended claims 1, 4, and 15-16, and respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 4, and 15. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of amended claims 1 and 4 because the cited references do not disclose or suggest a texturing apparatus or method that includes having an urging force adjuster and a controller connected to a drive that controls the drive and the urging force adjuster so that a ratio between a relative velocity and the urging force of the contact member is maintained constant. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of amended claim 15 because the cited references do not disclose or suggest a contact member that causes a texture spreading over a surface of the substrate when it moves.

The Hammond reference discloses a floppy disk 10 having an oxide-coated surface 12 applied as a thin coating to one or both sides of a sheet of flexible material 14. A burnishing apparatus 20 has a platen 24 which receives the floppy disk 10. The burnishing apparatus 20 also has a planar top surface 30 that is capable of transmitting sufficient torque

such that the disk 10 placed upon it may be rotated without significant slippage between the disk 10 and the top surface 30 while the oxide-coated surface 12 is burnished. Burnishing of the oxide-coated surface 12 of the disk 10 occurs by contact between a first portion 36 of a length of a burnishing tape 38 (Col. 3, lns. 10-53). However, the Hammond reference does not disclose or suggest a ratio between a relative velocity and an urging force of a contact member that is maintained constant, as now featured in amended claims 1 and 4. Furthermore, while the Hammond reference discloses a method of burnishing (*i.e.* polishing or smoothing) a disk, it does not disclose or suggest an apparatus having a contact member that causes a texture spreading over a surface of a substrate upon contact member movement, as now featured in amended claim 15.

The Moldovan et al. reference is directed to a lapping apparatus 10, and has a disc shaped lap 20 having a flat lapping surface 22. A holder 60 is rigidly attached to a base 12 of the lapping apparatus 10 and includes an arm 62 which projects over the lapping surface 22. The holder 60 is arranged to hold a part 64 in lapping engagement with the lapping surface 22. The Moldovan et al. reference further discloses in the background of the invention that the apparatus is used for grinding facets on gemstones, diamond styli and other relatively hard materials (Col. 1, lns. 10-14). However, the Moldovan reference does not disclose or suggest a ratio between a relative velocity and an urging force of a contact member that is maintained constant, as now featured in amended claims 1 and 4. In addition, the Moldovan et al. reference does not disclose or suggest an apparatus having a contact

member that causes a texture spreading over a surface of substrate upon contact member movement, as featured in amended claim 15.

The present invention now features in amended claims 1 and 4 that a ratio between a relative velocity and an urging force is maintained constant. The relative velocity is defined according to a velocity between the contact member and the surface of the recording medium substrate. Furthermore, the claims now feature applying an urging force to the contact member by an urging force adjuster (see Applicants' specification pg. 17, lns. 4-14). Since the cited references do not disclose or suggest a ratio between a relative velocity and an urging force, as now recited in amended claims 1 and 4, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of independent claims 1 and 4 is respectfully requested.

With respect to claim 15, the present invention now features in amended 15 an apparatus having a contact member, and wherein movement of the contact member causes a texture spreading over a surface of the substrate. As illustrated in FIG. 2 of the present application, the texture 22 is formed on front and back surfaces of the magnetic recording disk 13. The texture 22 comprises stripes of fine scratches 23, and serves to establish a surface roughness Ra of a predetermined value on the surface of the magnetic recording disk 13. This is adverse to the teaching of the Hammond and Moldovan et al. references, which describe burnishing and lapping processes which are used to smoothen or polish the surfaces of a disk, gemstones, etc. For this reason, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of amended claim 15 is respectfully requested.


Since claim 2 depends upon claim 1, claim 5 depends upon claim 4, and claim 16 depends upon claim 15, they necessarily include all of the features of their associated independent claim plus additional features. Thus, Applicants submit that the §103 rejection of claims 2, 5, and 16 have also been overcome for the same reasons mentioned above to overcome the rejections of independent claims 1, 4, and 15. Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of claims 2, 5, and 16 also be withdrawn.

New claims 17-20 depend from claims 1 and 14, respectfully, and recite further features of the present invention. Accordingly, these claims are considered allowable for at least the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claims 1 and 4. Allowance of new claims 17-20 is earnestly solicited.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should call Applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 
Joseph P. Fox
Registration No. 41,760

October 28, 2003
300 South Wacker Drive - Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315
Customer Number 24978

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